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|--|--|--|--------------------------|
|  | Proposed trail access                      |  | Proposed view point      |
|  | SDG&E access roads                         |  | Proposed multi-use trail |
|  | Potential access roads to private property |  | Proposed hike/bike trail |
|  |  |  | Private property         |

Note: Fencing and signage will be installed as necessary

Note: Public trails will not be located on private land (pending land acquisition, MOU and/or trail easement)

Note: Lands not shown as private, within the boundaries of Del Mar Mesa Preserve, are in public ownership or under easement to a public agency

**FIGURE 9-2a**  
**Off-site Trail Connections**  
**for the Proposed Trail System**  
**on Del Mar Mesa Preserve**



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Use and development of unauthorized paths and roads for recreation has resulted in impact/loss of adjacent vegetation (i.e. trail widening). The CDFG Vernal Pool Reserve fence has been cut in several places to facilitate unauthorized access throughout the Preserve. The chaparral habitat has also been cut for unauthorized access, in particular within the canyon areas of the Preserve.



**Photograph 9-1.**  
Vernal pool impacted by vehicles.

SDG&E employees and public and private landowners can access the Preserve from the existing north, south and west roads through locked gates. A key to the appropriate gate will be provided to private property owners. The majority of the authorized roads are maintained by SDG&E for access to their transmissions line towers.

The regulatory land use document for this area is the Del Mar Mesa Specific Plan which currently identifies the west and north/south SDG&E access road as the approved trail alignment. The Del Mar Mesa Specific Plan will be amended as part of the approval process for this Plan to reflect the included trail system.

### **9.3.2.2 Trail, Access Point and View Point Plan**

The proposed trail system makes use of authorized existing utility access roads and select single-track paths to accommodate recreational use by creating reasonable trail patterns (e.g. loops) and connectivity to adjacent trail systems as approved by regulatory agencies, public input, and City policy. Figures 9-3A through 9-3D show, in detail, the proposed trail system for Del Mar Mesa Preserve. Use of the CDFG Vernal Pool Reserve is governed by CDFG policies. These unauthorized trails may be re-vegetated based on CDFG statutes and management policy (see Chapter 3.0 for individual vernal pool locations).

Much of the land on Del Mar Mesa has been historically impacted by many uses over the past decade and beyond. Lands acquired as mitigation are to be maintained at mitigation levels. Some of the areas previously impacted by illegal encampment, migrants, and unauthorized paths, have been recently reopened by unauthorized trail use. If the new impacts are on previously mitigated lands, all necessary steps must be taken to restore to past mitigation conditions. Restoration of impacted areas will be both active (planting, native seed broadcasting), and passive (allowing native vegetation to recover from human impacts).

Proposed trails have been located in the least sensitive areas, and will include appropriate signage and fencing to direct users away from important natural resources. Proposed trails will be maintained and repaired as needed, including measures to minimize erosion. Due to its importance as biological habitat, Del Mar Mesa is not a planned destination for recreational users, but rather provides an important connection to the local and regional trail system. No new

trails will be developed, and areas currently impacted by unauthorized activity will be closed with native materials (brushing) and/or fencing and/or signage as needed. Authorized trail use in specified areas will be limited by user group. Proposed trail alignments were selected to avoid vernal pools and vernal pool watersheds, as well as other identified sensitive resources, and were reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game for consistency with the MSCP. In order to fulfill the MSCP requirement for an equestrian use plan, equestrian trail use will be in areas away from vernal pools and vernal pool watersheds.

Proposed trails on Del Mar Mesa were selected to utilize existing utility access roads and old unauthorized use patterns (e.g. historic itinerant activity, illegal trespass, etc.), and to avoid any new impacts to habitat. As the Del Mar Mesa area is critical for connection to both the local and regional trail system, trails proposed were primarily based on connectivity, with the incorporation of limited large loops. There are no specific destinations within the proposed trails of Del Mar Mesa. The proposed trails were selected to both preserve and protect vernal pools and sensitive natural habitat, while allowing recreational trails in densities appropriate for the preserve. Trail use designation is based on physical constraints such as low brush canopy, natural cover and sanctuary for wildlife, and avoidance of sensitive flora. Selected trails were based on input from the community and user groups, City staff, and direction from CDFG and USFWS. Trails not considered for inclusion were based on:

- Redundant trails
- Unauthorized trails, including shortcuts
- Trails not accessible to the public
- Unsafe or unsustainable trails

Proposed trail selection was reviewed and approved by City staff, CDFG and USFWS. Effective closure of unauthorized routes, active and passive restoration of impacted areas, and fencing and signage to close sensitive areas to public use or direct use away from sensitive areas will be implemented and maintained.

Vehicle access points and trail heads are provided at strategic locations for reasonable access. Vehicle access points are located at three existing locations: 1) the western access is located at the end of the Preserve Terrace through “The Preserve” housing development; 2) the northern access at the end of Santa Fe Canyon Place; 3) the southern access via the road from Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve at the end of Park Village Road. Access to private property on Del Mar Mesa will continue to be provided through existing roads. Additional trail heads will be located 1) from the west at the end of Rancho Toyon Place bordering “The Preserve” housing development, and 2) from the north at the corner of Arroyo Grande Road and Sierra Mesa Court.

There are two scenic viewpoints proposed on Del Mar Mesa Preserve (see Figure 9-3a). The southernmost view point overlooks Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve to the south. The